

A new species of *Trox* F. (Coleoptera: Trogidae) from Senegal with new distributional records for other African species

by

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Trox senegalensis is described as new. New distribution records are given for *T. braacki* Scholtz, *T. caffer lilianae* Scholtz, *T. consanguineus* Péringuey, *T. gunki* Scholtz, *T. rudebecki* Haaf and *T. tuberosus* Kolbe.

Since the revision of the subsaharan species of *Trox* F. appeared (Scholtz 1980) approximately 3 000 specimens of 28 species, representing all of the African subgenera, have been examined. The bulk of this material is deposited in the Transvaal Museum and National Collection of Insects (Pretoria) and the National Museum (Bloemfontein).

The description of the new species brings the total number of African species and subspecies of *Trox* to 70 (Scholtz 1982). In spite of the large number of specimens examined relatively few new distribution records were obtained and only six species are affected.

***Trox (Omorgus) senegalensis* spec. nov., Figs. 1, 2 & 4.**

Size. Length: 12,5-13 mm, width: 8,0-8,5 mm.

Head. Frons bituberculate; clypeus obtusely triangular, slightly deflexed below, acutely angular at the sides; antennal scape elongate, pedicel attached subapically.

Pronotum. Surface and margins with sparse, black setae; strongly attenuated anteriorly; lateral margins mildly dentate (Fig. 2); median depression deep, broad at anterior, narrow at posterior; discal ridges very prominent; median basal tubercles large, separate from discal ridges; lateral basal tubercles also large.

Elytra. Lateral margins serrate; humeral calli prominent; sutural margins with small round to elongate tubercles; costae distinct, with large isolated tubercles on odd numbered costae; tubercles on even numbered costae fused to form distinct ridges; elytral profile convex; attaining maximum height in the middle.

Male genitalia. See Fig. 4.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. ♂ Holotype, ♀ paratype with only SENEGAL recorded on the labels. Holotype deposited in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria; paratype in the collection of the Department of Entomology, University of Pretoria.



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Fig. 1. *Trox (Omorgus) senegalensis* **spec. nov.**, holotype male.

REMARKS. *Trox senegalensis* keys to *T. ponderosus* Péringuey, to which it is similar, in Scholtz's (1980) key. However, the new species has the pronotal margin as in Fig. 2 whereas *T. ponderosus* has it as in Fig. 3. *Trox ponderosus* has the even numbered elytral costae with regular, small tubercles whereas *T. senegalensis* has distinct ridges on even numbered costae. Male genitalia of the two species are distinctive (Figs. 4 & 5).

NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS

Trox (Trox) braacki Scholtz

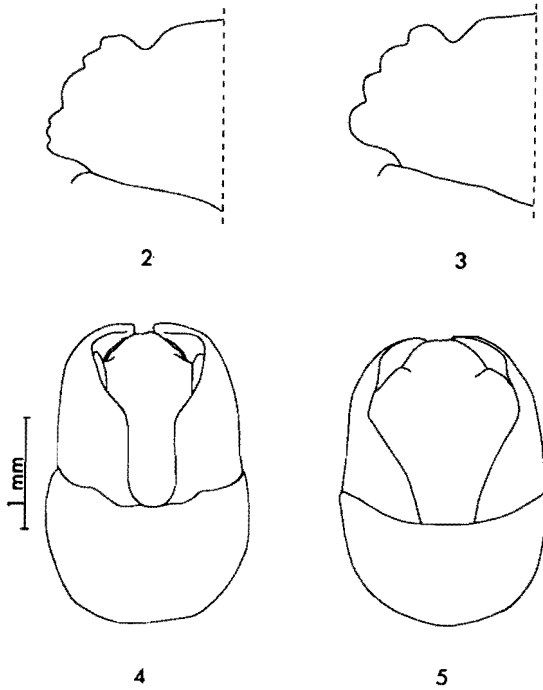
Trox braacki was previously known only from the type locality in the southern Cape Province (Scholtz 1980). To this is added one new record, north of the type locality, Matjiesfontein Mt. (33° 16' S 20° 30' E).

Trox (Trox) caffer lilianae Scholtz

This subspecies, described from eastern Zimbabwe, was previously known only from a few localities in that region. New records from Mariepskop in the Eastern Transvaal (24° 32' S 30° 53' E) and Nyika Plateau in Malawi (10° 48' S 33° 48' E) are now added. *Trox caffer lilianae* was thought to be a montane form (Scholtz 1980) and these new records add support to that assumption. The nominal subspecies is widespread in the Cape Province and southern Orange Free State.

Trox (Omorgus) consanguineus Péringuey

Trox consanguineus, which is rare in collections, was previously known only from the type locality in Zimbabwe and three localities in Zaïre. Specimens have sub-



Figs. 2—5. 2. *Trox (O.) senegalensis*, dorsal view of pronotum illustrating lateral margin. 3. *Trox (O.) ponderosus*, dorsal view of pronotum illustrating lateral margin. 4. *Trox (O.) senegalensis*, aedeagus of holotype. 5. *Trox (O.) ponderosus*, aedeagus.

sequently been collected in western Caprivi (Namibia) ($17^{\circ} 40' \text{ S } 23^{\circ} 13' \text{ E}$). From the known distribution it appears that *T. consanguineus* is restricted to moist savanna and tropical areas of Africa.

Trox (Trox) gunki Scholtz

Trox gunki, previously recorded only from the southern Cape Province (Scholtz 1980), is now known to extend its distribution through Namaqualand as far as the Richterveld, just south of the Orange River ($28^{\circ} 47' \text{ S } 17^{\circ} 12' \text{ E}$). It has been recorded from Harslagkop ($30^{\circ} 40' \text{ S } 18^{\circ} 47' \text{ E}$), Perdekraal ($30^{\circ} 46' \text{ S } 17^{\circ} 53' \text{ E}$) and Spectacle Pass ($29^{\circ} 42' \text{ S } 17^{\circ} 40' \text{ E}$) in Namaqualand.

Trox (Trox) rudebecki Haaf

This apterous species was recorded by Scholtz (1980) to occur only above 2 500 m in the Drakensberg Mountains. However, it has since been recorded at far lower altitudes in the districts of Harrismith ($28^{\circ} 16' \text{ S } 29^{\circ} 12' \text{ E}$) and Ladybrand ($29^{\circ} 13' \text{ S } 27^{\circ} 13' \text{ E}$) in the Orange Free State. It is doubtful whether the distribution range of the species is continuous as extensive collecting, between areas where they are known to occur, has yielded no specimens. Although they are apterous and appear to

survive in isolated areas no differences between various populations could be found and all specimens examined agree in all respects with the type.

Trox (Omorgus) tuberosus Kolbe

Trox tuberosus has been collected in Botswana (19° 59' S 23° 28' E) subsequent to Scholtz's revision (1980). This is the first record of *T. tuberosus* occurring west of 29° E in southern Africa. It was previously known only from northern and north-eastern Transvaal and in central and East Africa.

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